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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/AR

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DATE 12/11/77

TO: Ambassador IXX ISLAMABAD
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E.O. 11652: CDS-
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SUBJECT: New Cabinet Announced by Republic of Afghanistan

1. August 1 Radio Afghanistan announced make up of new cabinet. Mohammad Daud will continue as President, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defense. There follows listing of other appointments with brief initial sketch from currently available biographic information. More detailed data and assessment will follow. Information given here is subject to confirmation.
2. Deputy Prime Minister - Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq
Physician, confidant of Daud and previously private secretary to the President during his term as Prime Minister. Is known for his unquestioning personal loyalty to Daud and total lack of original

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CLEARANCE						

Classified by H. Platt

3. Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation - Dr. Abdul Wahid

Born in 1912, studied in Moscow. His education is the
highest of any of the USSR participants 1964 in management seminar.
Has held several offices in Ministry of Agriculture, last post was
President of Statistics in Ministry of Interior. Is reported to have
been removed from office in FAVA (Helmand/^{Arghandab} Valley Authority)
for either corruption and/or being too leftist.

4. Minister of Justice - Dr. Abdul Waheed

A Tajik, born 1915, US educated, PhD in Bacteriology at
Berkeley. Former Minister of Public Health and Education. Has first
Rector of Kabul University in 1947. Ambassador to Japan, 1956-63,
United States, 1963-67 and United Kingdom. Speaks excellent English
and is considered to be pro US. Intelligent but not very innovative.

5. Minister of Finance - Sayeed Abdulah

About 27 years old and reported to be member of Central Committee.
Studied finance law or economics from Kabul University, worked in
Ministry of Interior for one year. Last job was as Director of
Foreign Exchange, Department of Pashtany Tujeraty Bank. (N.B. Foreign
Exchange Department of P.T. Bank considered to be very poorly run and
source of foreign exchange losses to country.) Father was Minister
Interior in previous P.D. Daud regime.

6. Minister of Interior - Faiz Mohammed - Lt or Capt

Identification as yet uncertain. Is said to be one of younger
members of Central Committee.

7. Minister of Education - Navarud Din

...in 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966 and held the position of ... Also served as Pak Cultural Attaché Afghan Embassy, Kabul ... responsible for Afghan student affairs. Reportedly close friend ... (above) and Babrak Kader leftist Parcham party in last ... Very highly regarded by USAID Education Division and by ...

8. Minister of Information and Culture - Professor Dr. Abdul Rahim Karim
Former

A Tajik and physician. /Former Dean of Medical Faculty and ... for Academic Affairs at Kabul University, possible ... publisher and owner of weekly ...

9. Minister of Mines and Industries - Dr. Abdul Gafar Wardak

Former educated mining engineer and former Dean of Faculty of ... close friend of Saud ... Married to Masouma Wardak who was an officer of ... and active member Women's Institute.

10. Minister of Public Works - Ghauzudin - Lt or Capt

Positive identification as of yet unestablished.

11. Minister of Communications - Engineer Abdul Wajid - Lt or Capt

Positive identification as of yet unestablished.

~~... and ...~~
~~... he neither was affection nor capable of~~
~~... of ...~~
~~... of ...~~

to be very ill at present. No administrative experience.

19. General Affairs (Tribal Affairs) Pacha Gul - ex. Lt. Capt

Reported to be a member of the Central Committee. No other information immediately available.

20. According to the radio announcement, "Commerce and Other Ministries" will be announced later. Planning will be under close supervision of Pres Daud and may even disappear as a separate ministry.

21. It has also been reported that the Republic government has recalled all Afghan ambassadors to Kabul. We are attempting to verify.

Comment: This government is a peculiar hodgepodge and our initial impression is that it may be neither very effective nor capable of lasting in union. This may give Daud additional power as an arbitrator. It is likely that it represents a compromise between Daud and the Central Committee, but a compromise which favors Daud. The young officers control three ministries, Interior, Public Works and Tribal (Border) Affairs, of which only Interior is important for the control of the country. In the recent days, however, it became clear that the police (Interior) are no match for the Army (Defense). Possibly the Ministers of Communications and Finance should be added to the Central Committee since but the chances of a young, inexperienced man lasting in the bruisingly competitive atmosphere of the Ministry of Finance is doubtful. Perhaps that is why he is there.

Planning, it was reiterated to Ambassadors, will remain solidly under Daud's control and that is likely where the economic muscle will

be.

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